

Message Text

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66

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 (ADP) W

----- 110801

R 041532 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9399

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 3588

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, ET, NI, SO

SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN MINISTER RECEIVED BY GOWON

REF: LAGOS 3170, 3353

1. ETHIOPIAN MINISTER FOR COMMERCE KETEMA YIFRU WAS RECEIVED BY GOWON MAY 2. HE ARRIVED LAGOS MAY 1 AS HIM' S SPECIAL ENVOY WITH NOTE FROM EMPEROR TO GOWON. NIGERIAN MININFO PRESS RELEASE SAID MESSAGE DEALT " LARGELY" WITH OAU TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS. AT AIRPORT ON ARRIVAL, YIFRU TOLD PRESS HIS MISSION CONCERNED PREPARATIONS FOR OAU SUMMIT, ENSURING EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION BY OAU LEADERS, AND BILATERAL RELATIONS.
2. ETHIOPIAN EMBOFF SAYS HIS AMBASSADOR HAD ATTEMPTED TO DELIVER EMPEROR' S MESSAGE TO GOWON FOR PREVIOUS TWO WEEKS WITHOUT SUCCESS.
3. COMMENT: PRESUMABLY, AFTER AMBASSADORIAL RUN- AROUND

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BETWEEN CABINET OFFICE AND MEA, HIM DECIDED SEND SAME NOTE BY SPECIAL ENVOY IN ORDER GET THROUGH TO GOWON. POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT YIFRU ALSO DISCUSSED ETHIOPIAN- SOMALI PROBLEMS WITH GOWON IN WAKE SOMALI VICE PRESIDENT ABOKAR VISIT (LAGOS 3353)-- WHICH WOULD BETTER EXPLAIN URGENCY THAN SIMPLY DEISRE HAVE GOWON ATTEND SUMMIT. IT ALSO POSSIBLE ABOKAR' S PRESENCE IN NIGERIA CAUSED FMG DELAY IN RECEIVING ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR.

4. WE UNDERSTAND IT WAS CERTAIN GOWON WOULD ATTEND SUMMIT BEFORE YIFRU VISIT, ALTHOUGH THIS NOT OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED. NIGERIA AIRWAYS IS REPORTEDLY PREPARING BOEING 707 FOR HIS FLIGHT TO ADDIS ABABA.
REINHARDT

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KADUNA
MOGADISHU
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